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Appln. No. 10/700,950

Amendment dated May 12, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed April 14, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A pet communication apparatus for allowing a caller to communicate with a pet, the pet communication apparatus comprising:

a housing member being adapted for being selectively positioned on a support surface;

a processing assembly being positioned in said housing member, said processing assembly being adapted for being operationally coupled to a telephone jack such that said processing assembly is operationally coupled to a telephone company; and

a speaker member being operationally coupled to said processing assembly such that said speaker member is adapted for audibly reproducing audio spoken by the user calling the pet, said speaker member being coupled to said housing member such that said speaker member is adapted for audibly reproducing sounds to be heard by the pet; and

a bypass assembly being operationally coupled to said processing assembly such that said bypass assembly is adapted for being operationally coupled between said processing assembly and the telephone jack, said bypass assembly receiving signals from said telephone jack, said bypass assembly being adapted for being operationally coupled to a telephone, said bypass assembly actuating said processing assembly to allow the call from the user to be directed to said speaker member when said bypass assembly

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receives a code from the user after the user has called, said bypass assembly being adapted for permitting the call from the user to go to the telephone when said bypass assembly fails to receive the code from the user.

2. (Original) The pet communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a microphone member being operationally coupled to said processing assembly, said microphone assembly being coupled to said housing member, said microphone member being adapted for receiving audible sounds produced by the pet and transmitting the audio to said processing assembly to be transmitted to the user when the user has called the pet.

3. (Original) The pet communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a volume control member being operationally coupled between said speaker member and said processing assembly, said volume control member controlling the loudness at which said speaker member reproduces the audio spoken by the user, said volume control member being coupled to said housing member such that said volume control member is adapted for being actuated by the user.

4. (Original) The pet communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

an input jack being operationally coupled to said processing assembly, said input jack being coupled to said housing such that said input jack is adapted for receiving an input chord from the telephone jack, said input jack being adapted for permitting said processing assembly to be selectively operationally coupled to the telephone jack.

5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Currently Amended) The pet communication apparatus as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:

an output jack being operationally coupled to said bypass assembly, said output jack being coupled to said housing member such that said output jack is adapted for receiving an output chord from a telephone, said output jack being adapted for permitting the telephone to be selectively coupled to said bypass assembly.

7. (Original) The pet communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a lid member being selectively coupled to said housing member, said lid member being adapted for covering a power source selectively positioned in said housing member, said processing assembly being adapted for being coupled to the power supply such that said processing assembly is supplied power from the power supply.

8. (Original) The pet communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of foot members being coupled said housing member, each of said foot members being adapted for being positioned between said housing member and the support surface such that each of said foot members are for inhibiting said housing member from damaging the support surface.

9. (Original) The pet communication apparatus as set forth in claim 8, further comprising:

each of said foot members comprising a frictional material, said friction material being adapted for frictionally engaging the support surface such that said foot members are for inhibiting sliding of said housing member across the support surface.

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10. (Original) The pet communication apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

said housing member comprising a plurality of mounting apertures, each of said mounting apertures extending into said housing member, each of said mounting apertures being adapted for receiving one of plurality of mounting members extending outwardly from the support surface such that said mounting apertures are for allowing said housing member to be mounted to the support surface when the support surface is positioned in a vertical orientation.

11. (Currently Amended) A pet communication apparatus for allowing a caller to communicate with a pet, the pet communication apparatus comprising:

a housing member being adapted for being selectively positioned on a support surface;

a processing assembly being positioned in said housing member, said processing assembly being adapted for being operationally coupled to a telephone jack such that said processing assembly is operationally coupled to a telephone company;

a speaker member being operationally coupled to said processing assembly such that said speaker member is adapted for audibly reproducing audio spoken by the user calling the pet, said speaker member being coupled to said housing member such that said speaker member is adapted for audibly reproducing sounds to be heard by the pet;

a microphone member being operationally coupled to said processing assembly, said microphone assembly being coupled to said housing member, said microphone member being adapted for receiving audible sounds

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produced by the pet and transmitting the audio to said processing assembly to be transmitted to the user when the user has called the pet;

a volume control member being operationally coupled between said speaker member and said processing assembly, said volume control member controlling the loudness at which said speaker member reproduces the audio spoken by the user, said volume control member being coupled to said housing member such that said volume control member is adapted for being actuated by the user;

an input jack being operationally coupled to said processing assembly, said input jack being coupled to said housing such that said input jack is adapted for receiving an input chord from the telephone jack, said input jack being adapted for permitting said processing assembly to be selectively operationally coupled to the telephone jack;

a bypass assembly being operationally coupled to said processing assembly such that said bypass assembly is adapted for being operationally coupled between said processing assembly and the telephone jack, said bypass assembly receiving signals from said telephone jack, said bypass assembly being adapted for being operationally coupled to a telephone, said bypass assembly actuating said processing assembly to allow the call from the user to be directed to ~~the~~ said speaker member when said bypass assembly receives a code from the user after the user has called, said bypass assembly being adapted for permitting the call from the user to go to the telephone when said bypass assembly fails to receive the code from the user;

an output jack being operationally coupled to said bypass assembly, said output jack being coupled to said housing member such that said output jack is adapted for receiving an output chord from a telephone, said output

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jack being adapted for permitting the telephone to be selectively coupled to said bypass assembly;

a lid member being selectively coupled to said housing member, said lid member being adapted for covering a power source selectively positioned in said housing member, said processing assembly being adapted for being coupled to the power supply such that said processing assembly is supplied power from the power supply;

a plurality of foot members being coupled said housing member, each of said foot members being adapted for being positioned between said housing member and the support surface such that each of said foot members are for inhibiting said housing member from damaging the support surface;

each of said foot members comprising a frictional material, said friction material being adapted for frictionally engaging the support surface such that said foot members are for inhibiting sliding of said housing member across the support surface; and

said housing member comprising a plurality of mounting apertures, each of said mounting apertures extending into said housing member, each of said mounting apertures being adapted for receiving one of plurality of mounting members extending outwardly from the support surface such that said mounting apertures are for allowing said housing member to be mounted to the support surface when the support surface is positioned in a vertical orientation.